

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An article for use in growing vegetation, said article comprising:
 - a base layer formed of wood-derived cellulose fibers[[;]] said base layer having a wet density of at least about 0.07 grams per cubic centimeter;
 - a cover layer formed of biodegradable natural fibers, said cover layer having a different porosity, a different basis weight and a different density relative to said base layer; wherein said cover layer having a wet density of about 0.05 to about 0.20 grams per cubic centimeter;
 - an intermediate layer between portions of said base layer and said cover layer, wherein said intermediate layer forms a space between a portion of said cover layer and a portion of said base layer [[.]] and said intermediate layer including includes a plurality of seeds for use in growing said vegetation; and
 - a bonding agent for securing said base layer to said cover layer such that said cover layer and base layer are sealed together to contain said seeds between said base layer and cover layer.
2. (Original) The article according to claim 1 wherein said fibers of said cover layer are wood-derived cellulose fibers.
3. (Original) The article according to claim 2 wherein said base layer comprises an airlaid product and said cover layer comprises a wet laid product.
4. (Original) The article according to claim 1 wherein said base layer comprises a pulp product.
5. (Original) The article according to claim 4 wherein said pulp product includes a sheet of a pulp product.
6. (Original) The article according to claim 1 wherein said bonding agent comprises a biodegradable binder.

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7. (Original) The article according to claim 1 wherein said fibers of said cover layer include jute fibers.
8. (Original) The article according to claim 1 wherein said article is formed completely of biodegradable materials.
9. (Currently Amended) The article according to claim 1 wherein said intermediate layer ~~forms a space between a portion of said cover layer and a portion of said base layer, said intermediate layer~~ further includes nutrients and/or fertilizer for enhancing the growth of the vegetation.
10. (Original) The article according to claim 9 wherein at least one of said seeds is coated with said fertilizer.
11. (Original) The article according to claim 1 wherein a fertilizer is applied to at least one of said base layer and said cover layer.
12. (Original) The article according to claim 1 wherein at least one of said cover layer and said base layer includes a fertilizer for aiding in the growth of the vegetation.
13. (Original) The article according to claim 1 wherein said cover layer is secured to said base layer at positions spaced inwardly from outer perimeters of said cover layer and said base layer such that a plurality of pockets are formed in said article between said cover layer and said base layer.
14. (Original) The article according to claim 13 wherein a first of said pockets contains at least one seed for growing a first vegetation and a second of said pocket contains seeds for growing a second vegetation.
15. (Original) The article according to claim 13 wherein a first of said pockets contains at least one seed and a second of said pockets contains fertilizer and/or nutrients for aiding in the growth of the vegetation.

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16. (Original) The article according to claim 1 wherein said base layer has a basis weight within a range of about 23 to about 300 grams per square meter and said cover layer has a basis weight within a range of about 13 to about 100 grams per square meter.
17. (Original) The article according to claim 16 wherein said base layer has a basis weight of about 26 to about 80 grams per square meter.
18. (Original) The article according to claim 16 wherein said cover layer has a basis weight of about 13 to about 50 grams per square meter.
19. (Cancelled)
20. (Withdrawn) An article for use in growing vegetation, said article comprising: a base layer formed of a biodegradable product having a porosity and wet density that permit a root of the vegetation to penetrate the base layer and establish the vegetation for growth; an intermediate layer comprising a plurality of seeds for use in growing the vegetation; a cover layer being coextensive with said base layer and secured to said base layer by a bonding agent, said cover layer being formed of the biodegradable product of said base layer and having the same porosity and wet density as said base layer such that sprouting vegetation is capable of penetrating said cover layer.
21. (Withdrawn) The article according to claim 20 wherein said product of said base layer and said product of said cover layer are formed of wood-derived cellulose fibers.
22. (Withdrawn) The article according to claim 20 wherein said airlaid product of said base layer comprises a pulp product.
23. (Withdrawn) The article according to claim 20 wherein said bonding agent is biodegradable.
24. (Withdrawn) The article according to claim 20 wherein said cover layer and base layer are formed of natural materials.

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25. (Withdrawn) The article according to claim 20 wherein said article is completely formed of biodegradable materials.
26. (Withdrawn) The article according to claim 20 wherein at least one of said seeds is coated with a fertilizer.
27. (Withdrawn) The article according to claim 20 wherein at least one of said cover layer and said base layer carries a fertilizer for aiding in the growth of the vegetation.
28. (Withdrawn) The article according to claim 20 wherein said cover layer is secured to said base layer at positions spaced inwardly from outer perimeters of said cover layer and said base layer such that a plurality of pockets are formed in said article between said cover layer and said base layer.
29. (Withdrawn) The article according to claim 28 wherein a first of said pockets contains at least one seed for growing a first vegetation and a second of said pocket contains seeds for growing a second vegetation.
30. (Withdrawn) The article according to claim 28 wherein a first of said pockets contains at least one seed and a second of said pocket contains fertilizer and/or nutrients for aiding in the growth of the vegetation.
31. (Withdrawn) The article according to claim 20 wherein said base layer and cover layer each have a basis weight within a range of about 23 to about 300 grams per square meter.
32. (Withdrawn) The article according to claim 31 wherein said base layer and cover layer each have a basis weight of about 26 to about 80 grams per square meter.
33. (Withdrawn) The article according to claim 32 wherein said base layer and cover layer each have a basis weight of about 39 to about 71 grams per square meter.

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34. (Withdrawn) The article according to claim 20 wherein said cover layer and base layer each have a wet density of about at least 0.05 grams per cubic centimeter.

35. (Withdrawn) The article according to claim 20 wherein said biodegradable product of said cover layer comprises a woven material including jute fibers.

36. (Withdrawn) The article according to claim 35 wherein said woven material has a basis weight of about 10 ounces per yard square.

37. (Withdrawn) An article for use in growing vegetation, said article comprising: a base layer formed of a biodegradable natural fiber, said base layer having a basis weight of about 23 to about 300 grams per square meter and a wet density of at least about 0.05 grams per cubic centimeter; a cover layer formed of biodegradable natural fibers having a basis weight of about 13 to about 150 grams per square meter and a wet density of about 0.05 to about 0.20 grams per cubic centimeter; and a biodegradable bonding agent for securing said base layer to said cover layer.

38. (Withdrawn) The article according to claim 37 wherein said base layer and said cover layer each have a basis weight of about 26 to about 80 grams per square meter.

39. (Withdrawn) The article according to claim 37 wherein said base layer and said cover layer each have a basis weight of about 39 to about 71 grams per square meter.

40. (Withdrawn) The article according to claim 37 wherein said fibers of said cover layer are wood-derived cellulose fibers.

41. (Withdrawn) The article according to claim 37 wherein said base layer comprises a pulp product.

42. (Withdrawn) The article according to claim 41 wherein said pulp product includes a sheet of

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a pulp product.

43. (Withdrawn) The article according to claim 37 further comprising a plurality of seeds positioned between said cover layer and said base layer.

44. (Withdrawn) The article according to claim 43 wherein at least one of said seeds is coated with a fertilizer.

45. (Withdrawn) The article according to claim 43 wherein at least one of said cover layer and said base layer carries a fertilizer for aiding in the growth of the vegetation.

46. (Withdrawn) The article according to claim 37 wherein said cover layer is secured to said base layer at positions spaced inwardly from outer perimeters of said cover layer and said base layer such that a plurality of pockets are formed in said article between said cover layer and said base layer.

47. (Withdrawn) The article according to claim 46 wherein a first of said pockets contains at least one seed for growing a first vegetation and a second of said pocket contains seeds for growing a second vegetation.

48. (Withdrawn) The article according to claim 46 wherein a first of said pockets contains at least one seed and a second of said pockets contains fertilizer and/or nutrients for aiding in the growth of the vegetation.

49. (Withdrawn) The article according to claim 37 wherein said biodegradable natural fibers of said cover layer include jute fibers.

50. (Withdrawn) The article according to claim 35 wherein said cover layer has a basis weight of about 10 ounces per yard square.

51. (Withdrawn) A method of making the article recited in claim 37, said method comprising the

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steps of: providing said base layer formed of biodegradable natural fibers; providing said cover layer formed of biodegradable natural fibers; applying seeds to one of said base layer and said cover layer such that said seeds are distributed on a predetermined portion of the layer to which they are applied; applying said bonding agent to at least one of said layers; and securing said cover layer to said base layer such that said cover layer and said base layer form an enclosure around said seeds.

52. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 51 wherein said step of securing said cover layer to said base layer includes the step of passing said cover layer and said base layer carrying said seeds through a laminating machine.

53. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 51 wherein said bonding agent is applied to at least one of said base layer or cover layer by spraying or coating.

54. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 51 wherein said securing step includes securing said cover layer to said base layer adjacent a perimeter of said layers and at locations spaced from said perimeters so as to form pockets for containing said seeds within said article.